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EPITOME

OF

THE DISEASES

INCIDENT TO

CHILDREN.

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AN

EPITOME

OF

THE DISEASES

INCIDENT TO

CHILDREN.

BY

WILLIAM HEBERDEN, M. D. F. R. S.

PHYSICIAN EXTRAORDINARY TO THE KING,
AND PHYSICIAN TO THE QUEEN.

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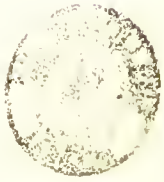

PREFACE.

The following Translation of my *Epitome Morborum Puerilium* has been made at the request of several of my friends, who persuaded me that it would be acceptable to the public. And it is proper to notice, which I do with some reluctance, that I have been the more ready to comply with their wishes, in consequence

of a very indifferent translation having already appeared by another hand, in which the sense of the original has been in many instances imperfectly rendered, and in some totally misrepresented.

The reader must not expect any thing new or uncommon on such a subject. It has been my endeavour to illustrate it rather by the rejection of what is futile or impertinent, than by a solicitous inquiry for new matter, or by

any additions of my own. Most, if not all the diseases which are here noticed, have been described more at length by other authors. Yet I have thought it might not be without its use, to bring the whole into one view, unencumbered, as much as may be, by the unscientific or absurd observations of illiterate and ignorant people, who have at all times been too apt to suppose themselves qualified to undertake this branch of medicine.

The only deviation of any consequence from the original Latin edition, is by the insertion of Chapter 50, on the subject of the purple spots, which sometimes appear on the skin.

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EPITOME
OF
THE DISEASES
INCIDENT TO CHILDREN.

CHAPTER I.

On the Diet and Management of Children.

It is always desirable, as far as we are able, to prevent diseases rather than to cure them; to obviate their causes rather than to remove their effects. And this is particularly the case with regard to children. We see other people broken down with luxury and intemperance, worn with care, or enervated by indolence; whence they become at once more

liable to sickness, and are less easily restored. But the treatment of children is much more simple.

——They never supt in solemn state,
Nor undigested feasts did urge their fate,
Nor day to night luxuriously did join,
Nor surfeited the rich Campanian wine.

DRYDEN, Georg. 3.

But if the frail and helpless condition of infants demand a nice attention; if man be ushered into the world full of infirmities and wants; yet are we all born with a certain spring of vitality, a self-restoring power, which though sometimes disordered and oppressed, does neither require, nor bear, the administration of many remedies. Let then art take example from nature, and follow in her steps. Let all tight bandages be removed; let all superfluous food be

withheld; that the play and growth of the limbs may be unrestrained; and that the stomach may not be overloaded, nor the digestion impeded. What distortion of the limbs, what bad shapes have we to deplore from the former of these causes! On the other hand, what multiplied evils arise from indigestion! Sometimes there occurs vomiting, sometimes purging, sometimes distension, sometimes griping, and very frequently acidities. It is doubtful whether we may not often attribute to the same origin likewise, the thrush, worms, wakefulness, pining, weakness, eruptions, and convulsions, to all of which children are especially subject. But when we obsĕrve that milk is the sustenance naturally provided for infants in the

breast of their mother; why should not the food which is artificially prepared, be made to bear some near resemblance to this, which we are sure must be proper for them? For what can any one hope to effect by the most elaborate combination of drugs, while every day is furnishing fresh matter for disease? In fact, I am persuaded the health of children may best be consulted, not by the daily invention of new remedies; but by a careful management, and prudent regulation of their diet, so as to preclude the most usual sources of their disorders.

During the first months of a child's life, the milk of his mother is unquestionably preferable to every other kind of nourishment. As, however,

it is usually more convenient to bring up a child partly by hand, as it is called, at the same time that he sucks; we should be careful so to regulate his diet, both with regard to quantity and quality, that the stomach may neither be oppressed with excess, nor the bowels disordered with what is improper. But as Providence has made human milk partaking both of an animal and vegetable nature; so ought the food prepared by art to be thin, and liquid, and made up of both kinds. And for fear there should be any thing, which by constant repetition may be found to disagree, it will be right frequently to introduce some little change. Neither must we conclude that whenever a child cries, he is therefore hungry;

or that as often as his sleep is interrupted, he should be crammed with children's victuals, or pap, usually consisting of bread and water. Rather let us endeavour gradually to bring forward his strength and faculties, by tossing in the arms, and such little exercise as at that tender age he is capable of; and at seasonable intervals let proper food be offered. For this purpose, horns, or what is more elegant, glass bottles perforated and covered with parchment, and other contrivances have been invented, which, while they give occasion to some little exertion in sucking, in imitation of what we see in nature, are attended with this advantage, that a child is not so easily surfeited, or induced to take more than he really wants. The

practice is best, which allows of children being fed frequently in the day, and by little at a time.

At first it will be sufficient to give them asses milk; or milk and water with a little sugar; or milk mixed with gruel, or with barley water, or with thin panada, or rice water. These again may occasionally be changed for beef tea, or any plain broth, with a little bread, biscuit, or barley. All which should be passed through a lawn sieve, to insure their being thin and smooth. At the end of six months this diet may be made a little stronger, and any light pudding may likewise be allowed. Solid animal food is not to be recommended before the eighth or ninth month. Though instances are not

wanting of children who have been brought up from the beginning with chicken, or other meat panada, without suffering from it any apparent ill effects.

Some substances are more suited to a relaxed, others to a costive habit of body. For the first, cows milk, rice, and flour are proper; also thin hartshorn or isinglas jelly. For the latter, whey, gruel, puddings with currants, baked apples, or other fruit.

Children may with propriety be kept at the breast a whole year. They ought not to be taken from it sooner than the end of four months. Some allowance must however be made for the health of the mother, and for the strength of the child;

for some will bear to be weaned much earlier than others.

The best drink for children is milk and water, barley water, or plain water. At the end of a twelve-month, or sooner, they may be allowed small beer.

A nursery ought to be a light, airy, and roomy chamber, where every thing is as clean and sweet as possible.

A child should be amused and kept awake in the day time, and should be habituated to sleep through the night.

He should be frequently exercised proportionally to his strength, which will be at once wholesome and pleasant to him.

His clothes should be loose, and

should often be changed, especially when they happen to be wet. And when he is undressed, his body should be gently rubbed with the hand.

CHAPTER 2.

Of Emetics.

Vomiting may be excited in children by giving them from three to six grains of ipecacuanha root in powder; or from fifteen to forty drops, or more, of ipecacuanha wine; or by the same quantity of antimonial wine. Also by dissolving two grains of tartarised antimony in four ounces of distilled water, and giving two drams of the solution

every quarter of an hour, till it produce its effect. Another medicine of the same kind is prepared by mixing together two grains of tartarised antimony and half a dram of oyster-shell powder, of which two grains, or more, may be taken at a time. Besides these remedies, some irritate the throat with a feather.

CHAPTER 3.

Of Purgatives.

In the first months of a child's life may be given a dram of castor oil; or, instead of this, three grains of rhubarb, the effect of which will be quickened by the addition of one third part of jalap. Sometimes also

a clyster is useful, consisting of four or five ounces of thin gruel.

But as all medicines are odious to children, it is desirable to select, for those who are a little older, such as are comprised in the smallest bulk, and are of the least offensive taste. Of this kind are four grains of jalap with ten grains of sugar; or four grains of jalap and one grain of calomel; or eight grains of the pulvis scammonii cum calomelane. There are some things likewise which are not unpleasant, as the electuary of senna, or a decoction of prunes and senna*; of the former, a dram

* The decoction of prunes and senna is prepared from half a pound of French prunes, and half an ounce of senna leaves, boiled down from a pint of water to half a pint; the senna, having been tied up in a linen bag, is then taken out.

is a moderate dose; of the latter, an ounce and half with three or four of the prunes.

Other remedies of the same class are, six drams of the infusion of senna with two drams of tincture of senna; or an ounce of the infusion of senna with eight grains of rhubarb; also three drams of Rochelle salt; or half an ounce of manna, with or without the addition of two drams of some purging salt; or a scruple of magnesia with five or six grains of powdered jala *.

* As purgative medicines constitute so important a part of the cure in most disorders of childhood, I have thought it might be useful to exhibit more accurately, in the following table, the actual effects of some of these, in a variety of cases, which I noted down. The perpendicular lines distinguish the ages of the children; the figures express the number of times that each medicine operated.

Ages of the Children.	First 6 mon.	Second 6 mon.	From 1 to 2	From 2 to 3	From 3 to 4	From 4 to 5	From 5 to 6	From 6 to 8	From 8 to 10
Olei Ricini ʒ j.	0, 1, 2	2. 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rhei gr. iij. Jalap. gr. j.	3	3, 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jalap. gr. iv.	—	—	3, 1, 1, 4	0	1, 1	—	—	—	—
Jalap. gr. iv. Calomel. gr. j.	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—
Rhei gr. vj. P.. cam c. Cal. gr. iv	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	—	—
Pulv. Scam. cum Calom. ϑ ss.	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
Rhei gr. viij. Calom. gr. j.	—	—	—	—	—	—	2, 2	—	4, 1
Rhei gr. x.	—	—	—	—	—	—	2, 3	2	—
Natri Tartarisati ʒ ij.	—	—	—	—	1	—	0, 1	—	—
Natri Tartarisati ʒ iij.	—	—	—	—	—	—	2, 3	3	0
Natri Vitriolati ʒ iij	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5, 3
Magnesiæ Vitriolatæ ʒ iij.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Mannæ Kali Tart. ā. ʒ ij.	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Inf. Sennæ ʒ vj. Tr. Sen. ʒ ij.	—	—	—	—	2	3	2, 3, 2	2, 3, 2	—
Mannæ ʒ j.	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Magnes. ϑ ss. Jalap. gr. vj.	—	—	—	—	2	1, 1	—	—	—
Dec. Prun. c. Senna ʒ i ss.	—	—	—	—	3, 2	3, 1	2	—	—
Electuarii Sennæ ʒ ss.	—	—	2, 2, 1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pulv. Sennæ comp. ϑ ss.	—	—	3	—	—	2	2, 1	—	—
Infus. sen. ʒ j. Rhei gr. viij.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3, 3	—

CHAPTER 4.

Of Astringents.

It is generally hazardous to stop a looseness of the bowels in children, without previously administering some gentle purgative. Then six or seven grains of prepared oyster shells, with two grains of cinnamon, or nutmeg, are useful; or a medicine containing an ounce and a half of the chalk mixture, one scruple of the confectio aromatica, and two drops of tincture of opium; or two ounces of water, half a dram of the extract of logwood, and two drops of tincture of opium; of either of these may be taken two teaspoonfuls

three or four times a day. Another medicine of the same kind is prepared from balaustins, red roses, pomegranate rind, and cinnamon, of each a dram, which are to be boiled in a pint of water and half a pint of milk till the fluid is reduced to one half, then half an ounce of sugar being added, it forms not an unpleasant liquor, which may be drunk by little at a time. Also five or ten grains of the pulvis cretæ compositus may be given three times a day; or five grains of powdered catechu in a little conserve of roses; or ten grains of the extract of logwood in a spoonful of milk. Some give two drops of ipecacuanha wine every six hours. Lastly, a clyster may be thrown up, consisting of a

few ounces of fat broth; or two ounces of starch mucilage with six drops of tincture of opium.

CHAPTER 5.

On the Signs of Indisposition in Children.

As young children are either not at all, or very imperfectly able to describe their own feelings, it becomes necessary to point out by what marks their disorders may principally be known. These are, wakefulness; restlessness; crying; or, on the other hand, a sullen heaviness; retching, or vomiting; loose, green, or slimy stools; loathing of their

food; a dry, or foul tongue; convulsions; retraction of the legs; emaciation, or relaxation; a dry and hot skin; eruptions; hiccup; sudden startings from sleep; screaming; hardness and distention of the belly; difficulty of breathing; strong pulsation of the arteries in the neck.

CHAPTER 6.

Of those who are born apparently lifeless.

Children who are born without signs of life, may yet sometimes be saved by timely attention. For this purpose it is useful to throw up injections of any warm liquid; to rub

the body either with the hand alone, or with a little brandy; and lastly, to inflate the lungs, by blowing into the mouth.

The same remedies will be proper in cases of suspended animation, from whatever cause it may arise.

CHAPTER 7.

On the black Colour of Infants.

It sometimes happens, that immediately after the birth the face and neck put on a black or livid appearance, the lips become purple, and the breathing short. These symptoms, if they do not very soon go off, usually terminate in a speedy

death. They are to be attributed either to some male-formation of the heart ; or to the vessels having imperfectly undergone those changes which are necessary for all animals who breathe the common air.

CHAPTER 8.

Of the Meconium.

During the two or three first days of a child's life, the bowels discharge a dark-coloured viscid matter, which had been lodged in the large intestines, and has obtained the name of meconium. It is prejudicial for this to be retained in the body; and in order to promote its expulsion,

the first milk of all animals seems to be endued with some purgative quality. The same end may be obtained by medicines. Therefore, in two hours after the birth, if nothing is discharged, it will be right to give a dram of castor oil, or three or four grains of rhubarb. Some give at intervals a tea-spoonful of a mixture containing equal parts of oil of almonds and of syrup; or a dram of a medicine composed of half an ounce of manna and two ounces of water. Sometimes stronger remedies are necessary, and are born without inconvenience; such as, two drams of infusion of senna; or three grains of jalap. Something of this kind must be given, and repeated till the bowels are effectually emp-

tied. It is often of use to assist them by throwing up six ounces of milk and water, or thin gruel, in the form of a clyster.

CHAPTER 9.

Of the Jaundice.

The jaundice is a common disorder among infants, and is known by the yellow colour which attends it. It is for the most part easily removed, by giving twice or thrice in a week as much rhubarb as will gently move the body. Sometimes a vomit is useful; for which purpose fifteen drops of antimonial wine, or three grains of powdered ipeca-

cuanha root, will generally be sufficient. Lastly, five grains of camomile flowers and two grains of rhubarb, or other medicines of a similar kind, may be taken with advantage once or twice in the day for a few days.

CHAPTER 10.

Of the Thrush.

The thrush consists of small white ulcers, which arise on the tongue and inside of the cheeks, and sometimes spread rapidly, till the whole mouth is lined as it were with a membrane. At the same time the fundament often becomes red, ow-

ing, as it should seem, to the sharp humour, which is carried off this way. There is a worse form of the disease, in which the colour is altered from a white to a more livid hue. Where it is mild, and after a few days does not increase, it often indeed continues a good while, but is free from danger. It is however a troublesome circumstance, that the nipples of the nurse are often painfully affected from this cause. There is seldom any fever attending it.

Among the French, and especially in their public hospitals, the thrush seems to be a more frequent, and a much severer disease, than in England.

At first it is proper to give so much rhubarb, or magnesia, as will

gently open the body; afterwards some prepared chalk, or oyster-shells, and with these a few grains of camomile flowers. Some also make a change in the diet of the nurse. The food of the child itself ought at least to be carefully regulated.

The remedies adapted to the ulcers themselves are, eight parts of honey with one of borax; or eight parts of the conserve of roses with one part of alum; or the mel acetatum; or honey of roses, either by itself, or to every ounce of which are added ten drops of the diluted vitriolic acid; lastly, the mucilage of quince seeds.

CHAPTER 11.

Of the Hiccup.

It is probable that the hiccup of children may often arise from some acidity, or heat of the stomach; in which case, a powder composed of half a scruple of prepared chalk and three grains of rhubarb will be beneficial. But if it should appear to be occasioned by nervous irritation, then it will be proper to give a few drops of the spiritus ammoniæ compositus, or of the tinctura opii camphorata. Sometimes also a little vinegar taken by itself has proved an effectual remedy. For the same complaint it is often useful to rub

the stomach with the soap liniment, either alone, or with the addition of a fourth part of laudanum ; or to cover it with a blister plaster.

CHAPTER 12.

Of Acidity and Indigestion.

From indigestion and acidity of the stomach, children are subject to continual crying and restlessness ; they have also sour eructations, vomitings, hiccups, and green stools, and their legs are forcibly drawn up towards the body. There is reason to think that these disorders are often occasioned either by too much, or by improper food.

The first thing to be done is to clear the bowels; for which purpose rhubarb is particularly useful. Afterwards, a powder consisting of seven grains of prepared oyster-shells, or magnesia, and three grains of camomile flowers, or colomba root, should be given twice a day; or ten drops of the aqua kali may be swallowed in a bitter draught. These medicines, and others of a similar kind, will have some effect on the disorders of the stomach. But as they seem frequently to originate in some error of the diet, the proper regulation of this must form a principal part of their cure. Sometimes it is of use to diminish the quantity of the child's nourishment; sometimes, to increase the proportion of

animal food, and to withdraw something from his bread, or other farinaceous substances. But the same mode will not equally suit all cases. We ought diligently to investigate wherein the mischief consists in each particular instance, that we may be able to supply what is wanting, either owing to the peculiarity of the habit, or to the nature of the place, or to mismanagement. Together with other remedies, exercise, and frictions of the body should not be omitted.

CHAPTER 13.

Of Wind on the Stomach.

Nurses, who have the care of young children, talk much about wind. To this cause their crying, hiccups, sleeplessness, and vomiting are indiscriminately attributed. This however would deserve little notice, were it not customary to apply to a complaint in itself almost nugatory, remedies which are pregnant with danger. For it is to be apprehended that strong peppermint water, or spirits, which are sometimes given on this account even to very young children, may sooner put an end to the patient, than to the disease. Yet I would not have this so understood,

as if I imagined that children never suffered from wind on the stomach; or, if they did, that they needed no relief. It may arise in many from a bad system of diet; sometimes from other causes: for the digestion of infants is weak, and easily disordered. The first attention therefore is necessary to see that the patient take no more nourishment than he is able to digest; but that he rather have a little and often, than too much at once. Then again, the kind of food ought to be light, or should in some manner be varied. Besides, a few grains of some bitter and aromatic powder are frequently serviceable, taken once or twice a day, and at the same time as much rhubarb as will keep the body open.

CHAPTER 14.

Of Wakefulness.

On account of wakefulness, it is sometimes expedient gently to purge the bowels. But above all things it is useful to let a child have frequent exercise in the day time, and to take him into the open air.

CHAPTER 15.

Of Worms.

Different kinds of worms are found in the human body. In some countries they are very common, in others less so: and it may happen that

certain conditions of the atmosphere may be more favourable to their production. The largest species is called the tape worm, from its resemblance to a piece of tape. It consists of a chain of shorter worms, each individual of which approaches in form to a gourd seed, and from thence has sometimes been named. They are more frequent in Swisserland, and in Holland, than in this country. Another sort is generally known by the name of the round worm, and resembles the common earth worms. The smallest of all are the ascarides, or thread worms, like little pieces of thread.

Each variety is attended with nearly the same symptoms. These are, a strong breath; an itching of

the nose, and fundament, which increases towards night; sometimes an excessive appetite, sometimes none at all; pains of the head, and stomach; griping, and hardness of the belly; vomiting; slimy stools; fever; thirst; giddiness; grinding of the teeth; disturbed sleep; cough; and convulsions.

But though all these signs are usual in cases of worms, yet they are sometimes met with where there are no worms; and at other times worms are voided without any previous notice. So that we may indeed form a reasonable conjecture of their existence; but we cannot be certain, till they have been observed in the stools.

It is useful to purge the body

with the infusion of senna, or with rhubarb, or jalap, to which most join a small proportion of calomel. These must be repeated at moderate intervals, as the strength will bear. Sometimes injections are of service, especially when the worms are lodged in the lower part of the intestines, which is the habit of the ascarides. The digestion must be supported by proper food, and by the remedies which strengthen the stomach. And a diligent attention is requisite, that no superfluous matter be retained in the bowels: for wherever there is nourishment convenient for their growth, thither the seeds of plants, thither the eggs of animals are presently conveyed.

CHAPTER 16.

Of Vomiting.

Vomiting is often an attendant on other complaints; sometimes of itself it constitutes an original disease. It is moreover either crude, or concocted. When what has been taken is returned crude and unaltered, it may be suspected to arise from over feeding, and to require nothing more than temperance for its cure. For a vomiting of digested food, it is right to change the mode of diet; or to open the body by some gentle physic; also to clear the stomach by an emetic, and afterwards to make the patient drink a little mint tea, or a saline draught, to which may be

added one drop of tincture of opium. Others derive benefit from a few grains of oyster-shell powder, or from a decoction of the Peruvian bark taken twice a day: sometimes also the warm bath is of service, sometimes a liniment, sometimes a blister, or other plaster, applied over the stomach.

It is a common notion, that the puking of infants is a mark of health: which I imagine must have originated from hence, that a healthy stomach is capable of exerting itself with more energy, and of expelling, either upwards or downwards, any superfluous or unwholesome substances it may have received. On the other hand, they who are weaker, from their very want of strength retain

what has been swallowed, and grow sick, because they are not able to unload and relieve themselves.

CHAPTER 17.

Of the State of the Bowels.

A costive habit of body, while it is not to be wished for, so neither is it too much to be dreaded. For a loose state of the bowels rather indicates a weak constitution, and a confined state a strong one. But in this a moderation is to be observed; and if an infant pass six-and-thirty hours without a motion, some purgative medicine ought to be administered.

CHAPTER 18.

Of a Looseness of the Bowels.

A looseness of the bowels in children may arise from various causes; but seems to me to be frequently occasioned either by too much, or by unsuitable food. Therefore to the choice and regulation of this a diligent attention should be given. And as these disorders often subside of themselves without any remedies, it is generally expedient to wait at least the space of one day, before recourse is had to medicine. The autumn is the season most liable to these complaints. A change of place, which has sometimes appeared to bring on a looseness, has at other times con-

tributed to its removal. In some cases an emetic is useful: in almost all as much rhubarb as will move the body, and afterwards the prepared chalk, or oyster-shell powder, and spices, and bitters, and astringents. In many likewise it is necessary to repeat the rhubarb several times at moderate intervals, when the stools are not only loose, and more frequent than they ought to be, but are besides slimy, or tinged with blood, or otherwise bad. Under these circumstances it will be proper every second or third day to clear the bowels by some gentle purgative, and in the mean time to give such things as will control and confirm them, and refresh the strength. The food also should be of that kind,

which may at once both nourish the body, and check the disease. Of this description are rice, or flour boiled in milk, or jelly of hartshorn, or isinglass, with a little wine and sugar. Sometimes glutinous substances are of service to sooth the irritable state of the intestines, as the pulvis tragacanthæ compositus, or a table spoonful of suet put into a quarter of a pint of milk while it is yet boiling, and stirred till it be dissolved, and then made palatable with a little sugar. Some things also may be thrown up in a clyster, as a few ounces of fat broth, or starch mucilage, and with these six drops of tinctura opii. While the strength and appetite continue, a purging may be considered as free from danger. A tightness of

the skin accompanied with clay-like stools is commonly fatal.

CHAPTER 19.

Of the Descent of the Fundament.

It sometimes happens that a portion of the intestine is pushed out beyond the external orifice after every stool. This generally arises either from a looseness of the bowels, or from a stone in the bladder, or from a diseased state of the intestine. These therefore being cured, the other will easily subside. In some, weakness alone seems to have produced this complaint: in which case, whatever

strengthens either the body generally, or those parts in particular, will be of service; as the Angustura, or Peruvian bark, and cold bathing. As soon as the intestine is replaced, a fomentation should be applied, which is made by boiling an ounce of oak bark in a pint of water.

The intestine is less apt to come down, when a seat is provided of such a height, that the feet may not touch the ground while the body empties itself.

CHAPTER 20.

Of the Erysipelas of Children.

A disease bearing some affinity to the erysipelas, sometimes attacks children in the first month, especially those who are born in public hospitals. The mildest species of it arises sometimes in the fingers and hands, sometimes in the feet or ankles; where it is presently followed by ulceration. There is a worse kind, which begins near the pubes, from whence it spreads upon the belly and thighs. Wherever it is formed the skin becomes livid and hard: there is not much swelling, but the parts which are affected by it have a tendency to gangrene, especially the

scrotum in boys, and at the same time the penis is distended. It often proves fatal in a few days. When the body has been opened after death, the intestines have been found glued together, and covered with coagulable lymph.

The bark should be given as soon as possible either by the mouth, or thrown up in a clyster; and to this may be added a little of the confectio aromatica, or one or two drops of tinctura opii. Besides, the parts themselves should be fomented with a decoction of camomile flowers, or with the spiritus camphoratus.

CHAPTER 21.

Of a Disease attended with Hardness of the Skin.*

Another very formidable disease is described, which has sometimes been denominated from the peculiar hardness of the cellular membrane. It is rarely seen excepting in the crowd of a public hospital; and has been more frequent on the continent than with us. The skin becomes tight and hard, and as it were fixed to the flesh beneath, especially on the cheeks and extremities, and about the pubes.

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* Called by the French physicians "l' endurcissement du tissu cellulaire." See Hist. de la Soc. Roy. de Medecine, 1784.

The colour is often yellowish, like wax; sometimes red or livid. There is a remarkable coldness attending it, and the cry of the child is feeble and plaintive. It is usual for several to be attacked about the same time, principally those who have been disordered in their bowels. In some it has been attended with convulsions, or locked jaw; and has sometimes appeared within an hour after the birth. Those whom it attacks, it generally destroys in a few days. On examining the dead body, every part has appeared turgid, and the cellular membrane has been filled with an hard fat.

Experience has taught us very little concerning the cure of so fatal a disorder. It may be tried what removal

into a purer air, and frequent frictions, and warm bathing, and injections into the intestines can avail.

CHAPTER 22.

Of the Tetanus, or Locked Jaw.

The locked jaw of infants, which is extremely rare in England, is said to occur in some countries not unfrequently. It comes on suddenly between the sixth and ninth day from the birth, and almost always proves fatal.

Hyacinthus Andreas has described this complaint as very common in Barcelona; and Cleghorn, who has preserved this account of Andreas,

himself met with the same disorder in Minorca; it is described by Hillary as prevailing in the West Indies, and other hot countries; by Rush in North America; and by Macaulay in Saint Kilda, one of the western isles of Scotland.

If at any time there be room for the application of remedies, the following may deserve to be tried: the warm bath, frictions, injections into the intestines, and blisters; and to these may be added the cold bath.

CHAPTER 23.

Of a Difficulty of making Water.

For a difficulty of making water, the proper remedies are the warm bath, frictions of the belly, and gentle purgatives; also equal parts of milk and warm water injected into the intestines.

CHAPTER 24.

Of an Incontinence of Urine.

A disease, the opposite to the preceding, is the inability to retain the urine. This is a frequent complaint in children of both sexes, who are

of a delicate frame and tender age. It is most apt to be troublesome in the night. In some it continues for several years; more commonly, when the age is a little advanced, it subsides.

Sometimes the cold bath is of use, sometimes a blister plaster applied to the loins; frequently all remedies are unavailing. It is proper to anoint the neighbouring parts with any soft ointment, to prevent the skin from chafing in consequence of being often wet.

CHAPTER 25.

Of Ruptures.

It is usual with infants to have the navel prominent. Sometimes a portion of the intestine protrudes further than it ought, and requires to be kept in by a bandage till the parts are consolidated.

For that species of rupture, which arises in the groin, no remedies ought at first to be applied. Some physicians however direct that the patient should be bathed in cold water. About the end of the second year, and not sooner, a truss will be proper.

CHAPTER 26.

Of the Hydrocele.

Children from the earliest infancy are liable to the hydrocele. But the fluid is generally absorbed spontaneously, and seldom returns. It is sufficient to moisten the part now and then with cold water, either alone, or in which some sal ammoniac is dissolved. Sometimes however it is necessary to pierce the scrotum, in order to draw off the water.

CHAPTER 27.

Of the Hydrocephalus, or Watery Head.

The hydrocephalus is sometimes formed before the birth; in which case the brain is often extenuated in such a manner as to resemble a membrane; at the same time the bones of the scull, not being yet consolidated, are distended to a prodigious size. Children in this state rarely survive four years. Another species of this disorder arises most commonly between the ages of two and ten years, and is less easily recognised. In both a watery fluid is collected in the ventricles of the

brain. It has sometimes been suspected to have originated from a blow; more frequently it has come on without any manifest cause. I once attended a boy about ten years old, who died of the hydrocephalus, and who told me he had lost two brothers and two sisters by the same disease. In another family we read of six children who were successively destroyed by it at the age of two years *.

Of this latter form of the disease the following are the principal signs: fever, sudden pains in the head, shrieking, frequent motion of the hands towards the head, sickness at the stomach, heaviness, impatience

* Underwood, on the Diseases of Infants.

of light, flushing of the cheeks, delirium, dilatation of the pupils, blindness, a slow pulse, and sometimes stupor, sometimes convulsions, lastly, death for the most part within a month.

Against the hydrocephalus no certain cure has been discovered. Most physicians give mercury in such a manner as to produce a salivation; which may either be done by means of the ointment, or by two grains of calomel taken every night. Medicines have been given to excite vomiting, and purging; and in many a discharge has been kept up near the head by blisters. But these, and all other remedies, usually frustrate our expectations.

CHAPTER 28.

Of Convulsions.

It is a common thing for infants to have convulsion fits; which are often entirely free from danger. Sometimes however they are occasioned by disorders of the most formidable kind, and are only terminated by death. They may be brought on by worms, teething, indigestion, and whatever more than ordinarily irritates the nerves. Some are convulsed in the very first hours of their life; especially those who are born prematurely, or in whom the vital spark is from any cause weak and imperfect. Danger is to

be apprehended when the intervals between the fits are short.

A little warm milk, or oil, should be thrown up into the intestines, or something should be given which may gently move them. The warm bath, blisters, and frictions are also proper. Sometimes the camphor mixture is useful; or two drops of the rectified oil of amber, or of the oleum animale, or six drops of the tinctura opii camphorata. Any of these may be repeated every four hours.

CHAPTER 29.

Of the Teeth.

The first set of teeth are mostly cut from the sixth to the twentieth month. At the same time it is usual for certain symptoms to occur, which, in different subjects, are more or less violent. These are, an increased flow of saliva, swelling and inflammation of the gums, flushing of the cheeks, loose stools, wakefulness, disturbed sleep, sudden fits of crying, putting the fingers to the mouth, convulsions, and fever.

A light and cool diet is proper, and such things as will keep the body moderately open. Besides these, some divide the gums with a lancet.

CHAPTER 30.

Of the Disorders of the Eyes.

Infants not unfrequently suffer inflammation of the eyes ; which generally subsides itself without any trouble. When however it continues longer, it will be right to give some opening physic, likewise to apply leeches to the temples, or a blister plaster to the back of the neck. Also a poultice of bread and milk inclosed in a fold of cambric, and tied round the eye, is often of great use. Besides these, some advise one or two drops of laudanum to be dropped into the eye twice in the day. After some time, when the inflammation is gone off, and

there remains a weakness from relaxation, the eye may be washed either with cold water, or with a mixture containing four ounces of distilled water and half an ounce of Goulard water, or the same quantity of distilled water with four grains of the cerussa acetata, or with as much white vitriol. And if the eyelids adhere together, as is often the case, their edges ought to be anointed every night with some soft and mild ointment.

It is a more rare complaint, in which there arises, a few days after the birth, a great swelling of the eyelids, so as completely to close the sight, while at the same time a purulent humour oozes out from the coats of the eye beneath. Some-

times the eye itself is destroyed. The proper remedy is to clean the surface of the eye several times a day with a wash composed of four ounces of distilled water and one dram either of the aqua aluminis composita, or of the aqua zinci vitriolati cum camphora.

When, in consequence of a violent degree of inflammation, or from any other accident, there remains a white speck, it may sometimes be removed by dropping into the eye three times a day two drops of a liquor consisting of four ounces of distilled water in which is dissolved one grain of hydrargyrus muriatus.

No operation ought to be attempted for the removal of a cataract during infancy.

For that species of blindness which is called a gutta serena, in which the pupil is clear, but dilated, and unaltered by the admission of light, some recommend electricity, some the opening of a drain in the neck, some calomel. For my own part, I have but too often found all remedies fruitless.

CHAPTER 31.

Of Squinting.

When a child is born with the eyes turned in, the deformity usually continues. But that squinting, which comes on afterwards, may often be

cured. The only remedy is, to cover the sound eye, for a few days, with a close bandage.

CHAPTER 32.

Of Bleeding at the Nose.

A bleeding of the nose is not uncommon in children, particularly if they are at all weakly, and the weather is hot. It seldom requires any remedy; or it is sufficient to apply some cold substance to the back, or to immerse the hands in cold water. If the bleeding cannot be stopt by these means, a pledget of lint must be introduced into the

nostril, till it reach the orifice of the bleeding vessel. When there are frequent returns of the disorder, it will be proper now and then to open the body with some purgative salt.

CHAPTER 33.

Of Bleeding from the Private Parts.

It sometimes happens that blood is discharged from the private parts of female infants within a few days from their birth, and generally occasions alarm, though without reason; for it subsides of itself, and is followed by no ill consequences.

CHAPTER 34.

Of the Fluor Albus.

A copious white discharge sometimes occurs in children of five years old. Frequent washing is useful, and such medicines as gently move the body. It is likewise proper to use the cold bath, and to take the decoction of bark, and whatever will add firmness and strength to the habit.

CHAPTER 35.

Of a Cold in the Head.

The effects of a common cold are often troublesome to children, par-

ticularly to infants at the breast. For while they are sucking, if the breath cannot be drawn through the nose, it is almost stopt. Therefore the nostrils ought to be cleared, and afterwards anointed with the spermaceti, or other soft ointment. At the same time, if there is much humour discharged, it will be right to give some opening physic, or to apply a blistering plaster to the neck.

CHAPTER 36.

Of a Cough.

For the cure of a cough it is often expedient to take away blood from the arm, especially if the dis-

order is attended with pain, and shortness of breath. Should a child be too young to admit of such an operation, two or more leeches may be applied to the arm, or a vein may be opened in the neck. The body ought at the same time to be purged, and a blistering plaster should be applied either to the breast, or to the back; which is the more necessary, if there happen to be much defluxion upon the chest. In addition to these remedies, the cough will admit of some alleviation from sipping occasionally emulsions, or other soft liquors. Also five drops of antimonial wine may be given in a little liquorice tea; or ten drops of the syrup of white poppies several times in the day, or a dram at

bed-time. Lastly, the body must be kept open, and all strong food must be withheld. When the disease is protracted, the patient should be directed to change the air, and to drink asses' milk.

CHAPTER 37.

Of the Hooping Cough.

The hooping cough, mild at its commencement, is soon increased; and with it the food, or a thick phlegm, is commonly thrown up; by which signs this disorder is at first detected. After a little while, the breath, almost spent by the violence of the cough, is drawn again with

a peculiar sound, which constitutes the distinguishing mark of the disease. It is accompanied by little or no fever. The fits come on suddenly, and terminate abruptly: when they are past, children scarcely seem to be at all unwell; although a moment before they had been almost suffocated; for the face is swelled and purple, the eyes are filled with water, the stomach is oppressed with wind, and sometimes blood is forced from the mouth or nose. It is a disease distressing both by its vehemence, and by its continuance; but seldom dangerous, except to very young children.

It is universally known how easily the contagion of this cough spreads. In some it has shewn itself about

fourteen days after they had been exposed to it; in others rather sooner. Those who have once had it, are generally secure for the remainder of their lives.

When the stomach appears to be loaded with much phlegm, it is proper to excite it to vomit; for which purpose, five grains of ipecacuanha are useful, or one or two drams of a mixture containing two ounces of water, two scruples of sugar, and two grains of tartarised antimony: in others it is sufficient now and then to move the body with a little rhubarb, or jalap. The food and drink ought to be light; and at night it is often of service to give two drops of the tinctura opii, or a dram of the syrup of white pop-

pies; to either of which may be added five drops of antimonial wine. Some also recommend the antimonial wine, or the inspissated juice of the hemlock, to be taken several times in the day. Others rub the back and breast with a liniment containing the oil of amber. But most of all, a frequent change of place is found to be beneficial. In this species of cough it is seldom necessary to take away blood; but if there comes on a shortness of breath, a blistering plaster ought to be applied.

CHAPTER 38.

Of the Croup.

The croup is an acute and dangerous disease, which is mostly met with in children under twelve years of age. It is attended with difficulty of breathing, and the breath being obstructed in its passage, is uttered with a quick and shrill sound, which characterizes the complaint. The pulse is at the same time accelerated, and there is usually a cough; sometimes also a little mucus is forced up. And sometimes the upper part of the wind-pipe is slightly painful, and is externally swelled. It often comes on at intervals in distressful fits, which the patients foresee, and

dread: and some, after they are past, seem to be quite spent and exhausted, in which state they may lie for an hour, or for several hours. It is doubtful whether this disease is contagious, or not; also whether it attacks the same person more than once; or whether it is more frequent on the sea coast, or in wet, or cold seasons. It had scarcely been noticed till towards the latter part of the eighteenth century.

On opening the dead body, the trachea has been found inflamed, and lined throughout its whole extent with a tenacious mucus, as it were with a membrane.

At first, or when there is much fever, it may afford relief to take away blood, either by the lancet, or

by leeches applied to the breast. In all cases, a blistering plaster ought to be put on. Sometimes a vomit is useful, and squills, and antimony, and gum ammoniacum, and asa fœtida, either taken by the mouth, or thrown up in a clyster, which may alleviate the laborious breathing; likewise warm vapours received into the throat; nor is it inexpedient to give a few drops of the syrup of white poppies, or of the camphorated tincture of opium. If a child is seized while he is lying down, he should immediately be raised up, lest he be suffocated by the violence of the attack. During this disease the food should be of the thinnest and mildest kind.

CHAPTER 39.

Of the ulcerated Sore-throat.

The ulcerated sore-throat is one of those diseases which are most readily communicated among children by infection: it is also not unfrequently fatal. In this complaint the throat is painful, swelled, red, and ulcerated; at the same time there is an acute fever, great loss of strength, and often delirium. Likewise the breast and arms, or the whole body, is in most suffused with a red colour. And sometimes a sharp humour is discharged from the mouth and nose. If in addition to these there comes on a difficulty of breathing, it is unfa-

vourable. It very rarely attacks any person a second time.

In this disease all strong purgatives ought to be avoided. A plaster of cantharides is almost always useful, and whatever will support the sinking strength, as the Peruvian bark, in powder, or decoction, to which may be added a little of the aromatic tincture, or confection. The throat also should be gargled with the infusion of roses, or with a mixture containing honey and vinegar and port wine. A little wine likewise in the patient's gruel, or other drink, is often salutary.

CHAPTER 40.

Of the Scarlet Fever.

The scarlet fever is attended with the common signs of fever; besides which, the breast and arms, or the whole skin is unusually red. This colour is either uniformly diffused, or is in detached spots. The subjects of this disorder have an extraordinary degree of languor, and are often light-headed; at the same time most complain of soreness in the throat. Moreover, the glands under the ears, or elsewhere, often swell, and sometimes suppurate. When the disease is past, the whole skin is renewed. They who have once gone through the scarlet fever are generally secure for the rest of their lives.

This disease, and the ulcerated sore-throat, if they are not one and the same, at least require the same method of cure. Therefore in this case likewise we ought to use the decoction of bark, and spices, and wine, and blisters; and to support the vital powers by every means.

Both diseases usually show themselves about the sixth day after they have been contracted.

It is a point of great importance to determine how soon after this disease patients may be restored to their family without danger of communicating infection. I have known some children return to the society of their brothers and sisters the fifth day from the termination of the redness, the skin having been first thoroughly

washed with warm water, and all their clothes changed, and no harm has ensued.

CHAPTER 41.

Of the Measles.

The signs of the measles are these. A fever, a dry cough, watery and weak eyes, swelling of the eye-lids, sneezing. These precede the eruption about three days. Generally on the fourth day there come out small red spots, first on the face, and the day following on the arms and rest of the body: after four days more, they die away into a branny scurf; and presently all the symptoms sub-

side. In a few, at this period, the fever and restlessness increase; and sometimes a speedy death, sometimes a slow decline follows.

The cough, and difficulty of breathing, may require bleeding on any day of the disease. Besides, by cooling diet and medicines, the heat and fever is, as much as possible, to be mitigated. To procure sleep, a dram of the poppy syrup, or three or four drops of the tincture of opium, are often necessary. Lastly, when the disease is past, some opening physic should be administered.

This disorder lies concealed in the habit sometimes ten, sometimes fourteen days before it shews itself.

CHAPTER 42.

Of the Small-pox.

Since the practice of inoculation has been generally adopted, the small-pox has been to be reckoned among the diseases of childhood. I shall therefore point out, first, what age is best suited to it; then, what are its usual signs; andlastly, what is the proper method of treatment. But since the proportion of those who die is more than sixty times greater by the natural disease, than by that produced by inoculation; it is evident that this ought at any time to be performed, provided there be danger of incurring the other. However, they who reside in the country, and are therefore

less exposed to the contagion of the small-pox, may safely wait till they have completed their second year. On the other side, the sixth ought not to be past without inoculation. For this purpose nothing more is necessary, than to insert the point of a needle, or lancet, imbued with the variolous matter, obliquely under the cuticle of either arm, half way between the shoulder and elbow. Generally on the fourth day afterwards the puncture is sensibly elevated, and from that time rapidly increases. On the ninth there comes on a fever, and the same evening some have one or more convulsion fits. In the course of the three following days the eruption is completed; and in three days more the pustules become ripe and

full of matter, and, if their number be considerable, a fever is again lighted up: soon after, they grow dry, and fall off; exhibiting an illustrious instance of the vanity of human wisdom, which, after having been long baffled by this disease, has been obliged to take refuge in the invention of barbarous nations. Since then we now see children so slightly affected by the small-pox, there seems to be little occasion for medicine, or for much alteration from their ordinary habits. Yet a short abstinence from animal food, and a little gentle physic, will not be improper, especially if the patient be full, or in any manner heated. It will again be right to empty the bowels as soon as the pustules have fallen from the face. But

if the eruption be more abundant than usual, and create greater uneasiness, it will be beneficial frequently to sip any thin liquids, and to take half a dram of the syrup of white poppies, or two drops of tincture of opium, at bed time, or even through the day. Often likewise it is equivalent to all other remedies, to refresh the hot and feverish body by taking it into the cool air. The rest of the cure must be conducted in the same manner as in other fevers. Therefore, when the strength is oppressed, and struggling as it were with the disease, the bowels ought to be cleared, or a blistering plaster should be put on: where there occurs much restlessness, fomentations, or warm injections, or opiates, will sooth the wearied body: on the

other hand, faintness and languor are to be relieved by wine, and aromatics, or by the Peruvian bark.

CHAPTER 43.

Of the Cow-pox.

Towards the close of the eighteenth century a new disorder, bearing some affinity to the small-pox, was made public; which, as it derived its origin from the teats of cows, received from thence its name. The cow-pox, whether casually or designedly ingrafted on the human body, seems to render it secure against the small-pox; although itself be distinguished from this disorder by unequivocal

marks. For it is not communicated by contagion; and it occasions no eruption over the body; and for the most part excites no fever. But there arises one round pustule on the inoculated part, which generally on the sixth day from the insertion contains a thin fluid; on the tenth day is surrounded by a circular red areola; and on the twelfth begins to dry up into a dark and deep scab.

It is of importance to attend to this progress of the disease; since it is from hence, that, in the present state of our knowledge, we derive the best assurance of its having taken full effect.

CHAPTER 44.

Of the Chicken-pox.

The chicken-pox comes on without much fever. In the beginning the eruption resembles the true small-pox; but the pustules increase faster, and sooner go off. They likewise vary considerably in size, and are seldom very numerous. On the first day they are red; on the second they have watery heads; on the third they become yellow, or often, being broken by scratching, they subside; on the fourth, or day following, they are covered with a thin scab.

The contagion of the chicken-pox most commonly becomes manifest on

the eighth or ninth day after it has been contracted.

It is not improper to abstain from meat and wine for a few days, and at the same time to avoid any thing that may heat the body. Besides these precautions, little or nothing is usually required.

CHAPTER 45.

Of the Infantile Fever.

Children are liable to a particular species of fever, mild at its commencement, slow in its progress, and uncertain in its event. When it happens, they grow fretful, and some

have occasionally shiverings; their lips become dry, their hands hot, their pulse quick, and their breath short; they are unwilling to stir, or to speak; sometimes very little is discharged from the bowels, sometimes too much, often slime, or mucus, or perhaps a worm: at the same time the sleep is disturbed, and the food is rejected: some are delirious, or lost and stupid; many for a time are speechless.

The first thing to be done is effectually to clear the bowels; and throughout the disease they ought to be kept open, or now and then to be moved by some purgative medicine. Besides, rest, and thin liquids are to be recommended: lastly, the debility

of the patient is to be relieved by a decoction of the Peruvian bark, and other remedies of a similar kind.

I never had reason to think this fever was infectious.

CHAPTER 46.

Of the Hectic Fever.

In the hectic fever the strength insensibly decays, the playful spirits of children are lost, and the whole body wastes away by a slow consumption. This generally arises from some internal disease, to which, if it can be detected, our first attention ought to be given. But since the original seat of the disease is often obscure; or, if

it be not concealed, yet admits no certain remedy; it will be sufficient, by purgatives now and then administered, to withdraw something from that matter which seems to offend, and at the same time to support the strength by all the means in our power. And if any one part, as the bowels, or stomach, is affected more than the rest, we must lose no time in affording succour against the most pressing complaint.

In most cases it is useful to give a few grains of rhubarb once in four or five days, and in the mean time a decoction or extract of the Peruvian bark. Sometimes a change of diet is beneficial; or a removal into a purer air; likewise moderate exercise, as the strength will permit.

That species of fever, which is attended with swelling of the belly, costiveness, or sometimes purging, and emaciation, often seems to proceed from inflammation, or obstruction of the mesenteric glands. In this case also the treatment should be the same that I have described; excepting that in a confined state of the body there should be a freer use of purgative medicines. Therefore senna, or salts, or rhubarb combined with calomel, may be given twice a week; and, on the intermediate days, an ounce of the decoction of bark morning and evening, either by itself, or with the addition of eight grains of the natron præparatum.

CHAPTER 47.

Of the Ague, or Intermittent Fever.

Children, as well as grown people, are sometimes attacked with the ague, and are cured by the same remedies. Therefore, when the fit is approaching, it will be right to give five grains of ipecacuanha, and provoke a vomiting, and afterwards to administer the Peruvian bark. This however would not fall within our view in treating of the diseases of childhood, did not some circumstances happen peculiar to that age. For, as children cannot easily be induced to take so much of this drug as is necessary for the cure of the disease, it often becomes a matter of considerable diffi-

culty to find out by what means it may be rendered more tolerable. This is best effected by milk. In one ounce of milk sweetened with a little sugar may be given a scruple of the powdered bark, or an equal quantity of the extract. Others, instead of milk, substitute the milk of almonds; or, with the addition of some syrup, make it into an electuary. Lastly, if none of these can be swallowed, a clyster must be thrown up three or four times a day, consisting of three ounces of the decoction of bark, to which may be added a little either of the powder or extract, and three drops of tincture of opium, or as much as is necessary to enable the bowels to retain the medicine.

CHAPTER 48.

Of the Venereal Disease.

Women who are infected with the venereal disease often bring forth dead children. It may be doubted whether this is owing to the disorder itself, or to the remedies necessary for its cure. Of those who are born alive from diseased parents, some enjoy perfect health; in others the mouth is internally infested with ulceration, and the cuticle of the body perishes. They are said also to infect their nurses with superficial ulcerations, and wasting of the flesh and strength; which, whether it should be called venereal, or not, is uncertain. Perhaps children who are born

of healthy parents may not be wholly exempt from similar disorders. Sea bathing appears to have afforded the best remedy. Should however any child be tainted with the real venereal disease, the mercurial ointment ought to be rub'd in without delay.

CHAPTER 49.

Of Eruptions.

Several kinds of eruptions are incident to children. Often there come out red scattered spots, which occupy irregularly the face, or neck, or the whole body: sometimes they are a little raised above the surrounding skin, or are filled with a fluid.

In another kind there are formed scales, sometimes attended with moisture, at other times dry. These principally occur about the forehead. But though they may continue for a considerable time, yet there is no danger to be apprehended, and no scar is left.

Sometimes there arises an eruption of red pimples on the neck and face, or all over the body, which remain for three or four days, and in appearance resemble the scarlet fever, or measles. But as they are unaccompanied with fever, I conceive them to have no connection with these diseases. And I am the more confirmed in this opinion from having seen children broken out in this manner, whom I had before attended through the scarlet fever.

There are other species of eruptions, which it would be to no purpose individually to describe. They all require the body to be kept open; and if there is any sickness at the stomach, a little chalk or magnesia ought to be given, and afterwards some rhubarb. But while the health is unaffected, I am of opinion that it is better to abstain from medicines. Cold is generally unfriendly to persons under these complaints. The food should be mild and of easy digestion.

Against the more obstinate cutaneous disorders may be applied externally the decoction of white hellebore, or the unguentum calcis hydrargyri albæ, or an ointment composed of equal parts of the unguentum hydrar-

gyri nitrati, and the unguentum adipis suillæ. Internally also may be given occasionally either senna tea, or salts, or some other purgative; and in the mean time the body should be strengthened by the Peruvian bark.

CHAPTER 50.

Of Purple Spots.

In some, and principally in girls, mostly about their twelfth year, there come out purple spots on the neck and limbs, or all over the body; which, though they are free from all danger, yet often create unfounded alarm; some imagining that they are indicative of the scurvy, others of

putrid fevers, or mortification. Their common appearance is that of small, round, purple spots, amongst which are some larger black and blue marks, as if from a bruise. At the same time children are subject to bleedings from the nose, or mouth, or other parts, which it is not always easy to stop. A more rare occurrence is that of swellings arising on the legs, of the same colour as the rest of the skin, which are painful when the limb is moved. No fever, nor even weakness is used to be perceived, nor does any bad consequence follow.

It is doubtful whether medicines have any effect upon this complaint. Certainly the Peruvian bark and acid of vitriol have in several instances been of no service. It has appeared

to be attended with rather more advantage, to move the body now and then with some purgative salt. The disorder most commonly terminates of its own accord, sometimes after ten, sometimes after twenty days; at other times it perseveres for three or four months; or lastly, when it has seemed to be past, it after an interval returns.

CHAPTER 51.

Of sore Ears.

It is a frequent disorder among children, to have moisture and ulceration behind the ears. For this astringent remedies are not proper. In

general it is sufficient to wash those parts with warm water twice or thrice in the day, and afterwards to interpose between the ear and the head a piece of lint spread with any soft cerate.

If the disease should extend down the neck with pain, and should penetrate deeper into the skin, it will be useful to apply to it the unguentum calcis hydrargyri albæ. Sometimes it is necessary to use externally fomentations, internally some opening medicine, repeated at intervals of three or four days, and in the mean time the extract of Peruvian bark. Sometimes a blister, by drawing the humour to a different part, is conducive to the cure.

CHAPTER 52.

Of a Chafing of the Skin.

In children, especially those who are fat, and in hot weather, the skin is apt to chafe, wherever there is a fold in it, and it is moist from the urine, or from perspiration, or any other cause. These parts ought several times in the day to be washed with warm water, and afterwards to be powdered with common hair powder, or with fuller's earth, or with the seeds of the lycopodium. It is likewise of use to anoint them with any soft ointment.

CHAPTER 53.

Of Chilblains.

Chilblains arise in the winter season, and affect the fingers, or toes, or the heel and edges of the feet. They produce redness and slight inflammation, and sometimes also ulceration. The pain is inconsiderable, but there is great itching. These complaints as they are originally brought on by cold, so they ought in the first place to be defended from it. Many rub the affected parts with the camphorated spirit, or with the linamentum saponis: others, more properly in my opinion, cover them with some cerate spread upon linen, or upon thin leather, as the ceratum

lapidis calaminaris, the ceratum saponis, or the emplastrum lithargyri: and these may be employed even after the skin is broken, and an ulcer is formed. Sometimes it becomes necessary to apply a poultice. Whether the parts are ulcerated or not, electricity is said to have been beneficial.

CHAPTER 54.

Of the Scald-head.

The scald-head is a disease of the head, in which a scurf and sort of small scales are formed upon the scalp, with itching and falling off of the hair. And this takes place sometimes with, sometimes without ulce-

ration. Sometimes also it spreads further, till the whole head is covered with a foul tetter. It is a contagious disease, and easily communicated among children, who use the same combs, or the same pillows, or the same hats.

The following external applications are proper against this complaint: the unguentum hydrargyri nitrati, the unguentum calcis hydrargyri albæ, also a solution of the hydrargyrus muriatus in water, or a decoction of the white hellebore, or of tobacco, and almost any acrid substances. These sometimes speedily extinguish the scald-head in its early stage. More commonly it continues for two months, or longer; in which case the head

should be shaved, and washed with soap and water, or with water in which an alkaline salt has been dissolved; and afterwards anointed with some one of the applications mentioned above, or with the unguentum picis. These must be continued till all remains of the disease are gone, and the new hair springs up. There is little advantage to be derived from medicines taken internally.

CHAPTER 55.

Of the Scrofula.

The scrofula is when the lymphatic glands swell, or sometimes inflame

and suppurate; which may take place in other parts, but is most frequent in the neck. In children likewise the glands of the mesentary are subject to the same disease; in consequence of which the belly swells, whilst the rest of the body wastes away.

The scrofula most commonly shows itself between the second and the twelfth year; sometimes later. And it particularly attacks those who are born of scrofulous parents, and whose constitution is infirm, whose complexion fair, whose nostrils and lips are tumid, and whose eyelids are subject to frequent inflammations.

There is another, and more severe species of this disorder, which affects

the fingers and limbs, in which it occasions swellings and ulceration, or which it even quite corrodes.

In some we perceive the glands in the neck to swell from a very slight, or no manifest cause, and again totally subside after a week, or perhaps a month, or longer. I am doubtful whether this has any relation to the scrofula; as it more readily yields to purgative medicines, and is often unattended through the rest of life with any other indications of a scrofulous habit.

Where the disorder is more deeply fixed, the patient should remove to the sea side, and also bathe in the sea, provided he has no fever. At the same time some have appeared to

derive advantage from drinking the sea water so as to move the body every third or fourth day for several weeks. In almost all, the Peruvian bark is useful, either in some simple preparation, or in combination with the natron præparatum.

The properest drink is the Malvern water, or distilled water. The food also ought to consist of the lightest materials, which may nourish the body, without exasperating the disease.

CHAPTER 56.

Of a White-Swelling.

To the class of scrofulous complaints likewise belongs that disorder,

which is called a white swelling; in which the knee is for a long time swelled and painful, and at length the bones themselves are corroded. To these are joined a hectic fever, and universal decline.

When the disease is recent, its remedies are nearly the same as for the scrofula. In addition to which it is proper to excite ulceration externally near the joint, and to keep up the discharge a long time. Frequently however an amputation of the limb becomes necessary.

CHAPTER 57.

Of the diseased Hip.

Another disease of the same kind arises in the hip, where it occasions suppuration, which by degrees destroys the whole joint. In these cases the knee is in more pain than the hip: and generally the leg of that side becomes longer than the other; but the thigh wastes, and is unable to support the weight of the body. The patient in the mean time is emaciated, and pines away with a slow fever. There are some who linger on for three years before they die. Very few recover, and these always continue lame. Sometimes death anticipates the discharge of the collected

matter; more commonly an open sore is at length produced, which rapidly precipitates the sinking patient.

To persons thus affected, the Peruvian bark should be administered; and with this, two or more large issues ought to be made round the joint. The strength is by all means to be supported; and if at any time any thing should be discovered to be useful against the scrofula, it might be hoped that it would afford likewise the best remedy for this disease.

CHAPTER 58.

Of the curved Spine.

Another disease allied to the preceding, though it may happen at any age, yet is chiefly met with in childhood. In this the anterior parts of the vertebræ are affected with ulceration and pain, to which are added convulsive spasms and palsy of the lower limbs; afterwards, when the bodies of the vertebræ are destroyed, the spine falls in and is bent forwards, and one or more of the bones project behind.

The only remedy is to make two deep issues in the back on each side of the diseased part, and to keep them open till the patient is recovered.

There will be no harm however in making him take at the same time some Peruvian bark. Besides this, some recommend a neck-swing, or other support for the head, that the body may become more erect, and the deformity lessened.

CHAPTER 59.

Of the Rickets.

In the seventeenth century the rickets appears to have been very common all over Europe, but particularly in England. However this may be, in our own times at least it is become much more rare. The usual time of its occurrence is in chil-

dren under three years of age. In these the flesh loses its firmness, the joints and the belly swell, the bones are curved, the teeth decay, and an universal weakness takes place.

To counteract these effects, the body must be supported by wholesome nourishment, and suitable exercise; and frictions, and country air, and cold bathing, and the Peruvian bark should be employed.

CHAPTER 60.

Of the Cleft-spine.

The spina bifida, or cleft-spine, is distinguished by a soft tumor on some part of the back bone, chiefly about

the loins. For the spinal process of one or more of the vertebræ is either entirely wanting, or is divided; and the membrane which contains the spinal marrow is distended with a fluid, and projects outwards. When this bursts, there succeeds an inflammation of the spinal marrow, which is speedily fatal. Children, who are the subjects of this disorder, rarely survive fifteen months.

It may be made a question, whether by constant and gentle pressure it is conceivable that this fluid may be absorbed? Also whether it be admissible by a small oblique wound to draw off the collected humour *?

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* In the Accounts published by the Royal Society of Medicine at Paris, for the year 1784, (p. 66,) is given the history of a young

CHAPTER 61.

Of the Hare-lip.

Children are sometimes born with the upper lip divided, which deformity can only be removed by an operation. The time for performing this is to be chosen either so soon after

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man in his twenty-eighth year, who was born with a swelling of this kind upon his loins. In his twelfth year, when it was become of a large size, a surgeon opened it, and let out all the inclosed fluid; nor was this followed by death, but by great debility; and the tumor soon grew up again. At length in his twentieth year, when it had increased to the size of a child's head, he accidentally lay upon it, in consequence of which inflammation and mortification came on, and he was brought into the most imminent danger of his life: but beyond all expectation, at that very time the humour was absorbed, and a firm cicatrix was formed on the collapsed skin, and the patient, though very weak, yet survived.

the birth that scarcely any food is required, or so late that the child can conveniently be fed by the hand. The lip therefore ought to be cut either on the very day of his birth; or, which I should consider as safer, not till after he has completed his fourth month. In some the palate is affected at the same time; from which cause the voice is inarticulate, and fluids, as they are swallowed, are apt to return through the nose.

THE END.

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